

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CCMS, PFOR, NL, NATO

SUBJ: NAC MEETING APRIL 9 - AGENDA ITEM III: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- NETHERLANDS AND CCMS

REF: A) THE HAGUE 1698; B) USNATO 1862; C) STATE 76850

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO ANNOUNCEMENT BY NETHERLANDS PERMREP AT APRIL 9 NAC OF NEW DUTCH POLICY TO QUESTION APPROPRIATENESS OF PURSUING PARTICULAR ACTIVITY IN NATO WHENEVER A NEW CCMS PROJECT PROPOSED, SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS OF BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG, ITALY, UK, GREECE, TURKEY, AND NORWAY ALL EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR CCMS AND REGRET OVER DUTCH DECISION. LUNS NOTED NETHERLANDS STATEMENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE GON WOULD RECONSIDER SUPPORT FOR THIS IMPORTANT AND SUCCESSFUL ARM OF ALLIANCE COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS AT APRIL 9 NAC MEETING, AMBASSADOR HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) SAID THAT AS RESULT OF MOTION PASSED BY LARGE MAJORITY IN NETHERLANDS PARLIAMENT MARCH 5 CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE PHASING OUT OF CCMS AND TRANSFER OF ACTIVITIES TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HE WAS UNDER CONFIDENTIAL

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INSTRUCTIONS TO STATE GON POLICY WITH REGARD TO CCMS. AMBASSADOR

HARTOGH SAID FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL HAD SPECIFICALLY RESERVED HIS POSITION IN ORDER TO INTERPRET INTENT OF MOTION.

GON POSITION IS THAT IT WILL NOT WITHDRAW UNILATERALLY FROM CCMS, NOR WILL IT DISCONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN ONGOING PROJECTS AND STUDIES. HOWEVER, EACH TIME NEW PROJECT IS PROPOSED, NETHERLANDS DEL TO NATO WILL RAISE QUESTION OF WHETHER WORK COULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN BETTER IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND CCMS PHASED OUT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

2. SYG LUNS SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH MOTION ADOPTED BY DUTCH PARLIAMENT AND WITH GON DECISION TO MAKE DEMARCHE IN NATO. HE REMINDED COUNCIL THAT BEFORE CCMS WAS ESTABLISHED AT INITIATIVE OF US PRESIDENT, THE NAC AND ALL GOVERNMENTS OF ALLIANCE HAD CAREFULLY EXAMINED QUESTION AND UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PROCEED WITH THIS NEW ACTIVITY. EXPERIENCE HAS CONFIRMED, HE ADDED THAT CCMS ACTIVITY AND UNIQUE METHODOLOGY WAS PLAYING AN EXTREMELY USEFUL ROLE AND WAS NOT DUPLICATING WORK DONE ELSEWHERE. LUNS CONCLUDED HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF DUTCH STATEMENT, ADDING THAT ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTED HE ADMIRERED MODERATE ACTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL IN RESPONSE TO ILL CONCEIVED PARLIAMENTARY MOTION.

3. AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) SAID THAT DUTCH PROPOSAL WOULD BE A COMPLETE CHANGE TO WHAT HAD BEEN UNANIMOUSLY AGREED BY ALLIANCE MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT HE WAS REASSURED BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S RESERVE, DE STAERCKE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT DUTCH ATTITUDE WAS DANGEROUS AND COULD LEAD TO WEAKENING OF SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITY THAT WAS ONE OF "FLOWERS AND GREAT SUCCESS STORIES" OF THE ALLIANCE. HE RECALLED THAT BELGIUM HAD AT FIRST BEEN SKEPTICAL OF LAUNCHING CCMS TYPE ACTIVITIES WITHIN NATO FRAMEWORK, BUT EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN SKEPTICISM WAS UNJUSTIFIED SINCE CCMS HAD PROVEN TO BE EMINENTLY SUCCESSFUL. BELGIUM SUPPORTED CCMS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

4. AMBASSADOR MENZIES (CANADA) FULLY SUPPORTED DE STAERCKE'S REMARKS, AND ADDED THAT CANADA HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT LINKS ACROSS ATLANTIC SHOULD GO BEYOND DEFENSE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR ALLIANCE COOPERATION IN BROADER FIELDS. HE NOTED THAT THE DESIRABILITY OF THESE LINKS WERE IN FACT RECOGNIZED IN ARTICLE
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2 OF THE CHARTER AND HAVE BEEN REAFFIRMED MANY TIMES SINCE. IN PRACTICE, ALLIANCE HAS GONE BEYOND NARROW DEFENSE LINK THROUGH POLITICAL CONSULTATION, VARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS IN PURSUIT OF DETENTE, AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES. MENZIES NOTED THAT THIS U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE HAD PROVIDED A NEW DIMENSION FOR THE ALLIANCE AND A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR TACKLING PROBLEMS COMMON TO OUR MODERN SOCIETIES. MENZIES PRAISED THE CCMS METHODOLOGY OF SHORT-TERM, PRACTICAL SHARING OF INFORMATION AND TECHNIQUES FOR FIITE PROGRAMS CONCLUDED IN TWO OR THREE YEARS WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF THEN TRANSFERRING THEM TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE ONGOING ACTION. MENZIES CONFIRMED CANADA'S CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR CCMS WHICH SERVES A VALUABLE NEED BY ADOPTING A NEW TECHNIQUE, PROVIDING NEW DIMENSION TO THE ALLIANCE, AND APPEALING TO THE

YOUNGER ELEMENT IN OUR SOCIETIES. CANADA ALSO REGRETS DUTCH PARLIAMENT CAME TO CONCLUSION IT DID, PERHAPS DUE TO MIS-INFORMATION OR MISUNDERSTANDING.

5. BOSS (FRG) SAID FRG FULLY SUPPORTS CCMS. IT CONSIDERS CCMS AN EMINENT EXAMPLE OF NON-MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE ALLIANCE, WHICH GERMANY CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL FOR THE WELL-BEING AND CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE ALLIANCE.

6. AMBASSADOR CATALANO (ITALY), PECK (UK), THEODORPOULOS (GREECE), ERALP (TURKEY), AND BUSCH (NORWAY) ALL ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH STATEMENTS OF THE DEAN AND AMBASSADOR MENZIES AND BOSS. THEY ADDED THAT "NEW DIMENSION" WAS THE OPERATIVE PHRASE FOR CCMS WHICH PROVES THAT NATO IS A TRUE ALLIANCE AND NOT MERELY A DEFENSE ORGANIZATION. AMBASSADOR BUSCH ADDED THAT NORWAY'S PARTICIPATION WAS SOMETIMES LIMITED BECAUSE OF ITS NEED TO APPORTION A LIMITED BUDGET AMONG ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION FIELD, BUT THAT NORWAY HAD ALWAYS FOUND ITS SELECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CCMS OF GREAT VALUE.

7. SYG LUNS CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE SUSPECTED THAT MANY PEOPLE WERE UNAWARE OF THE BENEFITS ACHIEVED THROUGH CCMS WITHOUT ANY BUREAUCRATIC OVERHEAD AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER EDUCATIONAL EFFORT. LUNS SAID HE HOPED THAT AMBASSADOR HARTOUGH'S REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT OF THE OUTPOURING OF FAVORABLE VIEWS OF OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD LEAD THE GON TO RECONSIDER ITS ATTITUDE. HARTOUGH SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT
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THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN NAC WHICH HE EXPECTED WOULD BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN THE HAGUE. BRUCE

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